

**November/December 2005** 

## **State Unveils Bold and Aggressive Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery Plan**

Multi-component plan will lower lake levels while improving coastal estuaries



n a muggy October morning – almost a year to the day when Gov. Jeb Bush announced the Acceler8 plan to step up the pace on Everglades restoration – the Governor's leadership is once again helping to speed up ecosystem restoration efforts. Joined by a host of elected and state officials, community leaders, environmental groups and citizens on the shores of Lake Okeechobee, Gov. Bush unveiled the Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery – or LOER – plan, an aggressive plan of action to accelerate

Gov. Jeb Bush congratulates State Sen. Ken Pruitt (at podium), State Rep. Joe Negron (second from left), South Florida Water Management District Executive Director Carol Ann Wehle (center) and District Board Member Nicolás Gutiérrez Jr. (far right) on the shores of Lake Okeechobe during the unveiling of a comprehensive plan to accelerate restoration and recovery of Lake Okeechobee and connecting coastal estuaries. 'Lake Okeechobee is being reborn today,' Sen. Pruitt said.

restoration and recovery of the largest freshwater lake in the southeast and the connecting Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.

"Lake Okeechobee is the gateway to America's Everglades. Restoring this dynamic system is critical to the long-term economic and environmental health of South Florida," said Gov. Bush. "This comprehensive, common-sense plan will reduce pollution and better manage the flow of water while meeting our flood control and water supply responsibilities."

## How?

LOER is a series of fast-tracked construction projects and numerous interagency initiatives to

continued inside

## in this ISSUE...

- Wilma impacts assessed
- Acceler8 progress whisks along
- Find Freddy
- A Day at the District
- Unprecedented AWS grants
- ► Ramped up recreation
- Ask Freddy

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